

strong economy and a nation that shares America's tradition of individual freedom and full human rights for its citizens.

For the United States, Taiwan is a significant trading partner, a valued regional military ally and, above all, a good friend. Taiwan mourned with us over the tragic events of September 11, 2001. Its leaders have expressed their condolences and solidarity with the people and government of the United States. Taiwan has cancelled all its National Day celebrations throughout the United States and pledged its full cooperation with us in combating terrorism.

The Republic of China on Taiwan shares with us not only our grief, but also our belief that this was not just an attack against America. It was an attack against democracy and freedom that both our countries cherish. On the 90th anniversary of its National Day, Taiwan celebrates these treasured ideals.

Over the past decade, the Republic of China has moved rapidly towards becoming a democratic society. Free and fair elections are routinely held at all levels of government, and approximately 70 percent of eligible voters participate in ROC elections. Taiwan has become a shining example of freedom and democracy in a part of the world in need of role models.

America stands by its long-standing commitment to the people and government of Taiwan with which we have developed strong economic, political and social ties. As Taiwan celebrates its National Day, I share their joy and hope that we will be able to continue our partnership and friendship well into the future.

TRIBUTE TO URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to rise today to express gratitude and thanks to the Urban Search and Rescue Team of Denver, Colorado. The Urban Search and Rescue Team traveled to New York City, to aid in the World Trade Center rescue efforts after the September 11th terrorist attack.

The team joined others at the World Trade Center rescue after the horrific terrorist attack against our nation. Though their chances of finding survivors were slim, the team was still determined. A recent edition of the *Denver Post* captures the sentiments of the team as Mike Seidler, a member of the team, said, "Until they turn it into 'recovery', we go at it as 'rescue'." Consisting of 130 members from the Denver area, the Urban Search and Rescue Team is one of twenty-eight teams nationwide, and is overseen by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

In this time of national shock and grief, it is truly inspirational to witness so many brave Coloradans coming to the aid of their fellow Americans. The courageous actions of this team, putting themselves in harm's way to rescue strangers, exemplifies the American spirit and is a reminder it is the American people who make our country so great.

The Urban Search and Rescue Team makes not only its community proud, but also those of its state and country. It is a true

honor to have such extraordinary people reside in Colorado and we owe them a debt of gratitude for their service. I ask the House to join me in extending wholehearted congratulation to the Urban Search and Rescue Team.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, this Member was absent for official business purposes in Ottawa, Canada, as the Chairman of the House delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly for the major annual meeting during the evening of October 9, 2001, and unfortunately missed two roll call votes. Had this Member been present, this Member would have voted in the following ways:

1. Rollcall No. 372—"aye" on final passage of H. Con. Res. 244 authorizing the printing of a revised edition of the publication entitled "Our Flag."

2. Rollcall No. 373—"aye" on final passage of H. Res. 250 expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the Secretary of Energy should increase the capacity of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to 1,000,000,000 barrels of crude oil.

FARM SECURITY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 5, 2001

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, across the board, commodity prices have dropped to record lows since the passage of the 1996 Farm Bill. Rural communities and farmers are in dire straits as to their future success. Today we are given the opportunity to help sustain our rural economies and help the lives of millions of Americans.

We find ourselves at perhaps the most important crossroad in our nation's farm policy history. Today we have the power to profess our support for our nation's farm communities or risk their destruction at the hands of a well-intentioned, but potentially devastating policy proposal.

Growing up in Southern Louisiana, I was surrounded by rice fields and farm communities. Southwest Louisiana is known for its Cajun heritage. A large part of this heritage comes from a strong farming tradition. This is true for many of our nation's rural communities. Since before this country's inception, farm communities have developed and sustained local economies and industry. Beyond this, these communities have developed their own way of life, their own culture of agronomy, their own agriculture.

Through H.R. 2646 we have the opportunity to preserve this agriculture. We have lost many farmers over the past 5 years. However, we now are given the chance to save our local farmers and the industries that depend on a strong agricultural economy. By decreasing commodity programs through conservation

policy, we sacrifice the farmers, as well as the mills, the seed and fertilizer suppliers, the crop aviators, the mechanics, and the thousands of other men and women directly affected by the health of our agricultural industry.

I am a strong proponent of increased conservation programs. However, I cannot support these programs at the expense of our nation's farmers. We can, and should, find other vehicles to sustain our nation's environment. Increased conservation programs in H.R. 2646 provide a good beginning. Other policy initiatives, such as the Conservation And Reinvestment Act (CARA), can provide much needed assistance to preserve habitat and open space without coming out of the pockets of commodity producers and local economies.

Without H.R. 2646, many of our nation's producers will not be able to survive. Without these farmers, many rural economies will not survive. And without a strong local economy, we run the risk of destroying even the culture of rural America. Please don't turn your backs on our nation's farming communities. As a hunter and sportsman I pledge to continue working with my colleagues to promote conservation, but not on this bill.

ECONOMIC STIMULUS AND WORKING FAMILIES

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the urgent need to provide immediate economic stimulus to this country in the form of a payroll tax rebate for working families.

The United States is facing a crisis, and it is not merely a security crisis. There is a visible, pressing need for economic stimulus and worker relief. We should move quickly to jumpstart the economy by putting money into the hands of the tax paying lower wage workers that are more likely to spend it immediately. My bill, the Working Families Tax Rebate Act will do just that.

This bill will provide an immediate payroll tax rebate of up to \$300 to people who didn't benefit from the tax cut signed into law in June. The dramatic decrease in travel and tourism not only affects those workers employed by the airline industry.

Working men and women in the hospitality industry and service sector are also facing massive layoffs. These people need immediate help with buying their groceries, preparing for the holidays, and paying their heating bills. Our shopkeepers need consumers back in the stores.

I urge my colleagues to support HR 3015. Because this country needs economic stimulus now.

ANNIVERSARY OF SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize a most auspicious event in the life

of Salem Lutheran Church in Toledo, Ohio. On Sunday, November 4, 2001, the congregation will celebrate its 160th anniversary. Such an occasion is truly a monument to faith.

Salem is Toledo's first and oldest Lutheran church, having been founded in 1842 in one of Toledo's most historic neighborhoods, the near North End. Originally made up of the German, Greek and Syrian immigrants in the neighborhood at that time, the church's congregation changed through the years and remains reflective of the diversity of its neighborhood yet today. Particularly in its second century of life, Salem Lutheran Church has been a place of constancy in a neighborhood and for a people who welcome many newcomers. Comfort is found within its walls for local people, but also those who are poor and often beaten down by serious struggles of life. The church's building houses not only a place of worship but also provides a place for its neighbors to come together to eat and for other community services and church-based programs benefiting them.

Salem's pastor and parishioners have been active in the Toledo Area Lutheran Coalition, a cluster of churches dedicated to a cooperative relationship. It is a teaching parish, serving as a host site for Synod youth interns and seminary interns several times since 1994. In the words of its current pastor, today "Salem serves as a model for central city multicultural ministry, offering an ecumenical ministry site . . . to grow in service." She describes the congregation's move toward the future noting, "there is a sense of gratitude we are still here, an awareness of the resurrection power of God, and a renewed sense of mission with the people of our neighborhood."

Following Christ's admonition, whatsoever you do to the least among us, that you do unto Me, the congregation of Salem Lutheran Church flowered in the neighborhood in which these He described have lived. In its past, its present, and into its future, Salem Lutheran Church will always be a place of faith, hope, and love, and a testament to Christ's Word and the perseverance of His followers. As today's congregation reflects on its past and is inspired by its future, I am pleased to offer my voice to the chorus of congratulations on its 160th anniversary.

INTRODUCING THE NATIONAL OFFICE FOR COMBATING TERRORISM ACT OF 2001

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to establish the National Office for Combating Terrorism within the Executive Office of the President. With more than three dozen different federal agencies tasked with countering terrorism, an umbrella agency with responsibility for coordination and communication is sorely needed. It is not enough for our government to be united in word. We must also be united in deed. If we are truly fighting a sustained and long-term battle against terrorism, then we must produce an efficient and effective system to wage a full-scale war.

This bill, the House companion to legislation introduced by my friend and colleague, Sen-

ator BOB GRAHAM, creates the National Office for Combating Terrorism under the direction of the President. This office has the responsibility for developing a comprehensive national strategy for the prevention of, and response to, acts of terrorism. This encompassing strategy will be known as the "National Terrorism Prevention and Response Strategy." Priorities must be set, and clear and effective policies, goals and objectives must be delineated. This office will coordinate, oversee, and evaluate the implementation of this strategy, which will include joint efforts with both state and local governments to ensure clear communications. The National Office for Combating Terrorism will also have the responsibility for developing an annual budget for the national strategy, including the budgets of departments and agencies within the National Foreign Intelligence Program that deal with international terrorism. However, military programs and projects will not be incorporated into this budget. Personnel will be appointed by the President with proper and timely Senate confirmation.

Mr. Speaker, the Bush Administration continually emphasizes the multifaceted front of this war on terrorism. Our military forces are stronger and better trained than the terrorist forces. Our economic livelihood is light years ahead of theirs, our intelligence network is more capable, and our resolve is more powerful. On all fronts of this war we have the upper hand. So let us make sure that our organization is more effective than theirs. Our counter terrorist agencies are making the right moves. Let us ensure that they all move in the same direction. I sincerely hope that my colleagues will work with me to ensure the passage of this important legislation. Thank you.

THE 41ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commemorate the 41st anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Cyprus. On October 1, 1960, Cyprus became an independent republic after decades of British colonial rule.

Over the last decades, Cyprus and the United States have established close political, economic and social ties, developing a valued friendship. Both countries gained their independence from Great Britain, and now each country celebrates the anniversary of that independence as their national holiday. More significantly, Cyprus and the United States share a deep and abiding commitment to democracy, fundamental human rights, free markets, and the ideal and practice of equal justice under law.

This year, the September 11th terrorist attacks cast a heavy shadow over the celebrations for Cyprus Independence Day, as the shock and grief continues to be felt. The leaders and the people of Cyprus have expressed their abhorrence and their strong condemnation for the terrorists and those who support them, while voicing their solidarity with the American people. In a moment of true friendship, the Republic of Cyprus declared Sep-

tember 14th as a Day of Mourning for the victims. Flags were flown at half-mast, flowers were laid at the American Embassy in the capital of Nicosia, while high-ranking officials and ordinary people signed a book of condolences.

The government of Cyprus has pledged to cooperate fully with the Bush Administration in the battle against terrorism. Cyprus shares our belief that the horrendous act of violence on September 11th did not constitute just an offensive against America, it was an assault against democracy and freedom. Cypriots do not stand indifferent and passive in responding to heinous acts that target our sense of security, our civil liberties and our faith in the democratic process. Having achieved its independence after a bitter fight to uphold freedom and democracy, Cyprus understands that great determination and unity are needed in order to safeguard the treasured ideals we share.

As the Republic of Cyprus celebrates its 41st Independence Day, I share their joy for having created a prosperous, open society based on solid foundations. Furthermore, I believe this is a opportunity for the United States of America and Cyprus to come closer together, as they stand united in their resolve to fight the battle on terrorism. As we move forward, I am confident that our friendship will continue well into the future.

IN MEMORY OF IMAM KHATTAB

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 10, 2001

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of the Imam Abdelmoneim Mahmoud Khattab, Imam Emeritus of the Islamic Center of Greater Toledo. Imam Khattab passed from this life on September 15, 2001 after courageously battling cancer.

The Imam was born in a village near Cairo and eventually attended Al-Azhar University in Egypt. He received both undergraduate and graduate degrees in that ancient institution of learning. After graduating he worked briefly for the Egyptian consulate in Calcutta, then returned to Al-Azhar to lead the Institute of Foreign Languages. In 1964, the university appointed him to direct the Canadian Islamic Center in Edmonton, Alberta. While there, he received a second graduate degree, in Sociology, from the University of Alberta and completed work toward a doctoral degree from the University of Waterloo.

Prior to his arrival in Northwest Ohio in 1980, Imam Khattab was the director of London, Ontario's Islamic Center. His arrival in Toledo preceded the groundbreaking of our own community's Islamic Center, and he guided its construction and philosophy. A decade later, he led the effort to establish a chair of Islamic Studies at the University of Toledo and he established a training center at the Islamic Center for students of Al-Azhur to train to become Imams for American Muslim communities.

Imam Khattab was truly a man of enlightenment. His wise and thoughtful counsel could be counted on even in the most troubling of times, and he was both friend and mentor to many. Quietly persistent, combining his sense